

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a reflective mode FLC application, a $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave plate compensating FLC is used in series with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave imaging FLC to compensate for the effects of DC balancing. Alternatively, the compensating wave plate could be any odd $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave multiple, such as $3\lambda/4$,
5 $5\lambda/4$, etc. The FLCs are driven in synchronization between on and off states with the total effective retardation for each FLC being either none or one-half wavelength in a double pass.